Chief Secretaries' Conference for Power Projects

3647. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories was held in New Delhi at the behest of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held in the Conference;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the States have not yet placed orders for projects totalling 11,125 MW of power;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to speed up the process of placement of orders for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Secretary's Conference was held on 19th February, 2008 in New Delhi to discuss Power Sector issues.

(b) The following items were discussed:

- Accelerated Capacity Addition: Ordering of all 11th Plan projects to be completed by March, 2008.
- Reduction of AT&C losses to 15%.
- Implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.
- Implementation of Open Access in Transmission & Distribution.
- Strengthening Intra-state Transmission & Distribution systems under the State Sector.

(c) to (e) States are yet to place orders in respect of projects aggregating 7543 MW included in the original 11th Plan list due to non tying up of various inputs/clearances. Ministry of Power has been actively interacting and monitoring through meeting/discussions with the State Governments, with BHEL as well as with State Power Utilities, including through two Chief Secretaries' Conferences, and one Chief Ministers' Conference.

Tripping of Northern Grid

3648. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Northern Grid has again near about collapsed, this time due to excess power supply, as demand dipped due to sudden rain in the Northern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States are drawing excess power from the Northern Grid stating the demand and supply position of different States drawing power from the Northern Grid; and

(d) what has been done to ensure safety of the Grid and back up supply in case of failure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There was reduction in demand by about 4700 MW in Northern Region during